THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The University Grants Commission (UGC) identified Universities with potential for excellence and provides financial assistance to them, up to a limit of Rs. 30 crores over a period of five years, in order to improve the quality of higher education. It is also implementing a Special Assistance Programme (SAP) wherein assistance of Rs. 40-100 lakhs is given to eligible Department of Universities having a potential for quality teaching and research in various disciplines.

The National Assessment and Accredited Council (NAAC), an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC, assesses and accredits institutions of higher education with a view to improving their quality.

A programme of Finishing Schools for unemployed engineering graduates has been taken up since 2007-08 in order to prepare them for the IT/ITeS industries.

Position in quality education

†346. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to stae:

(a) whether it is a fact that any State in the country has been conferred the highest international position in the matter of quality from the point of view of human resource;

(b) if so, the names of the States and what are the main features on the basis of which such award has been conferred; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide more resource to such State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Human Resource Development is not aware of any such conferment of highest international position to any State in the country in the matter of quality from the point of view of human resource.

(c) Does not arise.

Total Literacy Campaign Scheme

†347. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States of the country in which the total literacy campaign scheme has been implemented;

(b) the purpose of Government behind this scheme;

(c) the amount being provided by the Central Government to each State; and

(d) the number of persons provided with employment throughout the country under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) 597 districts of the country in 34 States/UTs have been covered under the literacy programmes so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi